

THAT YOU MAY KNOW

Spirit and Truth
John 4:16-26
March 13, 2022

“But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.” - John 4:23

I. THE PROBLEM

- Jesus knows the Samaritan woman, even if she does not yet know Jesus (Vv. 16-18).
- Jesus addresses the woman’s confusion by getting at the real issue: her sin (Vs. 18).

II. THE QUESTION

- The woman perceives Jesus to be more than an ordinary Jew and asks a theological question: Where is the true place of worship? (Vv. 19-20)
- The Jews worshiped in the Temple in Jerusalem; the Samaritans, who only accepted the Pentateuch as inspired, worshipped on mount Gerizim (Deut. 11:29).

III. THE ANSWER

- Jesus affirms the Jerusalem Temple to have been the true place of worship under the Old Covenant administration (Vs. 22; 1 Kings 6-8).
- Jesus reveals that He has come to usher in the Messianic age of the Spirit (Vv. 21, 23-24; Joel 2:28-32; Acts 2).
- “The hour” is ultimately Jesus’ death, resurrection, and ascension (John 2:4; 17:1).
- “Spirit and truth” does not indicate an abstract or subjective kind of worship, but that the true God will dwell in and among His people by the Spirit (Rom. 8:1-17; Heb. 12:22-24; Rev. 21:1-4).
- How will this woman, a sinner, be able to come and worship in the very presence of God? Through the God-man, Jesus Christ (Vv. 25-26; Rom. 5:1-11).

KNOW: The locus of God’s presence is with His people, and His people worship Him by the Spirit and in accordance with the truth. Jesus has inaugurated a new reality that awaits its full consummation when He comes again.

DO: Walk joyfully in the Holy Spirit, Whom God has given you, by prayer and thanksgiving (Galatians 5:16).

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please Read John 4:16-26

1. Why do so many feel the need to hide their past? How does knowing Jesus free us to be honest about our sin?
2. What are “sacred spaces” and what is their function in the Old Testament? How do we understand them in light of the New Testament?
3. Why is it theologically significant to know that God is spirit?
4. What does it mean to worship the Father in Spirit and in truth? How should this play out in the Church today?
5. How should the truths in this passage affect how we approach God in prayer?
6. What is meant by “already-not-yet” and how does this concept help us understand the person and work of Jesus?
7. What other applications can you draw from this text/sermon?